

# Grain Truck and Ocean Rate Advisory: Quarterly Updates

Transportation and Marketing Programs  
Transportation Services Division  
[www.ams.usda.gov/AgTransportation](http://www.ams.usda.gov/AgTransportation)

## Truck Advisory

**Table 1: U.S. Grain Truck Market, 2nd Quarter 2015**

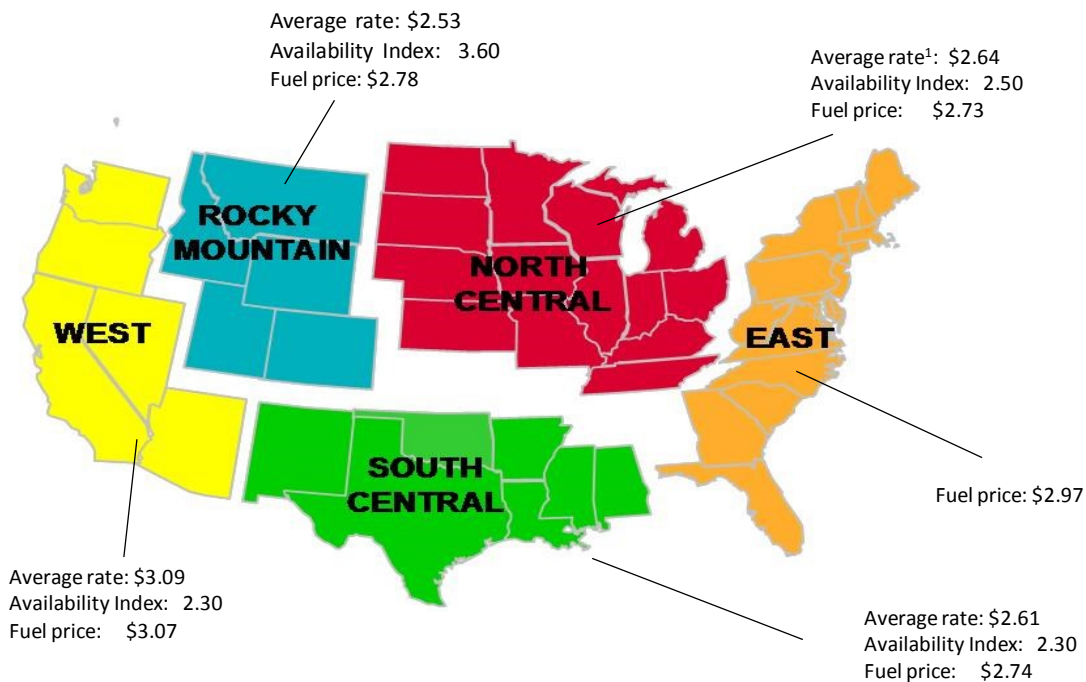
Region	25 miles	100 miles	200 miles	Truck availability	Truck usage	Future truck usage
	<sup>1</sup> Rate per mile, per truckload			<i>Quarterly Index</i>		
				1=Very Easy to 5=Very Difficult	1=Much Lower to 5=Much Higher	
<b>National average<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>3.54</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>3.30</b>
North Central region	3.66	2.29	1.98	2.50	2.40	3.80
Rocky Mountain	3.04	2.59	1.96	3.60	2.00	3.00
South Central	2.74	2.56	2.52	2.30	2.90	2.40
West	3.88	2.76	2.64	2.30	2.90	2.90

<sup>1</sup>Rates are based on trucks with 80,000 lb gross vehicle weight limit, and are quoted in U.S. dollar

<sup>2</sup>National average is based on rates received from various States, but not every State is represented.

Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA

**Figure 1: U.S. Grain Truck Market, 2nd Quarter 2015**



<sup>1</sup>Average rate per loaded mile, based on truck rates for trips of 25, 100, and 200 miles

Note: Fuel prices are a quarterly average (unit per gallon)

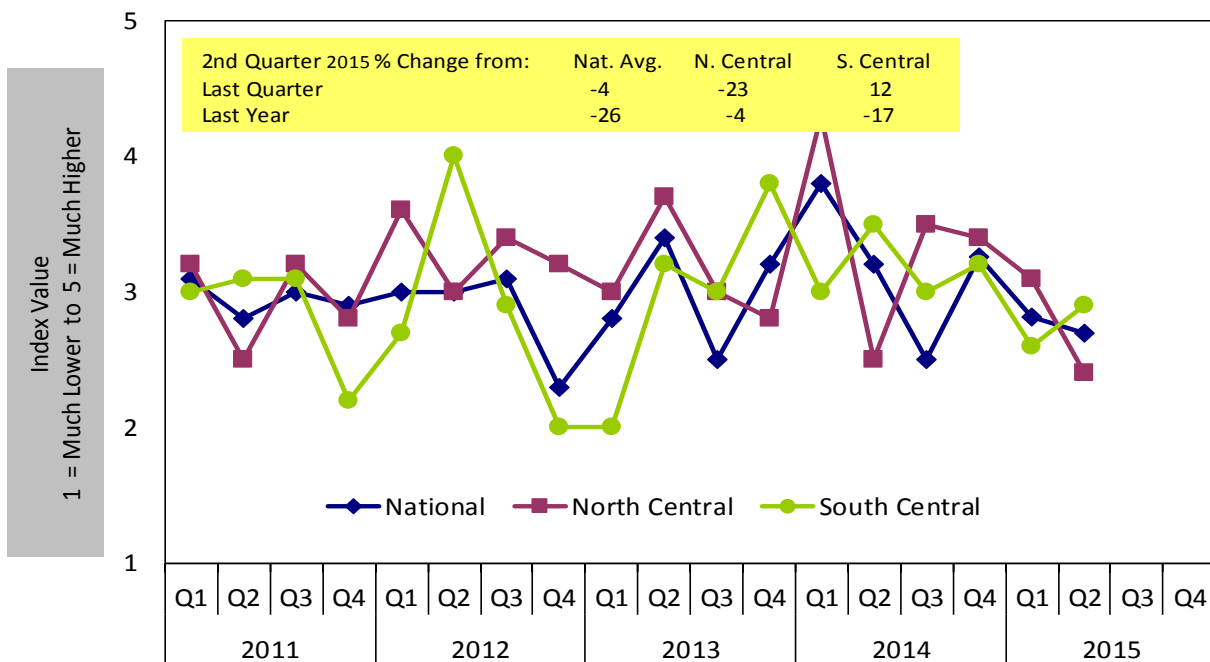
Fuel Price Data Source: Energy Information Administration U.S. Department of Energy, [www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov)

# Truck Usage

**Table 2: Regional Truck Usage Index**

Current Truck Usage 1 = Much Lower to 5 = Much Higher					Future Truck Usage 1 = Much Lower to 5 = Much Higher			
2013	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr
<b>National</b>	<b>2.80</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>3.40</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.20</b>
North Central	3.00	3.70	3.00	2.80	3.00	3.70	3.00	2.90
Rocky Mountain	n/a	3.00	2.00	3.10	n/a	3.00	3.00	3.90
South Central	2.00	3.20	3.00	3.80	4.00	3.20	3.00	3.30
West	3.00	3.00	2.00	3.20	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.20
<b>2014</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b>4th Qtr</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b>4th Qtr</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>3.26</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>2.40</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>2.73</b>
North Central	4.30	2.50	3.50	3.40	4.00	2.40	4.00	2.83
Rocky Mountain	3.20	2.20	3.00	3.00	2.40	2.40	2.50	3.00
South Central	3.00	3.50	3.00	3.20	3.00	2.60	1.00	2.80
West	3.00	3.20	3.00	2.00	3.00	2.20	3.00	1.50
<b>2015</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b>4th Qtr</b>	<b>1st Qtr</b>	<b>2nd Qtr</b>	<b>3rd Qtr</b>	<b>4th Qtr</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>2.70</b>			<b>3.27</b>	<b>3.30</b>		
North Central	3.10	2.40			2.60	3.80		
Rocky Mountain	3.00	2.00			3.00	3.00		
South Central	2.60	2.90			3.60	2.40		
West	2.90	2.90			3.40	2.90		

**Figure 2: National Truck Usage, 2nd Quarter 2015**



Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs, AMS/USDA

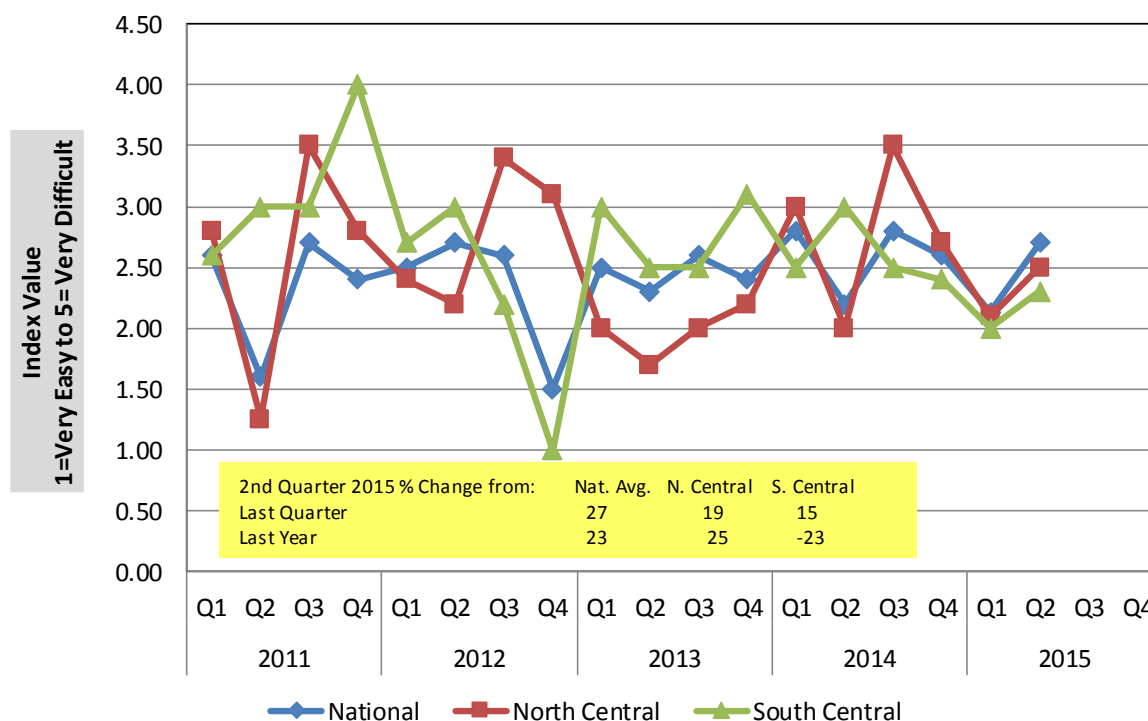
# Truck Availability

**Table 3: Quarterly National Truck Availability Index**

Region	1= Very Easy	5=Very Difficult		Current qtr as % change from	
	2nd Quarter 2015	Previous Quarter	Same Quarter Last Year	Previous Qtr	Same Qtr Last Year
National	2.70	2.13	2.20	27	23
North Central	2.50	2.10	2.00	19	25
South Central	2.30	2.00	3.00	15	-23

The truck availability index tracks the trends in perceived ease of hiring a truck as reported by grain elevators.

**Figure 3: National Truck Availability**



# Truck Rates

**Table 4 : Average Grain Truck Rates for Short and Long Hauls, 2nd Quarter 2015 (\$/mile per truckload)**

Region	25 miles	100 miles	200 miles	% increase from:					
				Last qtr			Same qtr Last year		
				25 mi	100 mi	200 mi	25 mi	100 mi	200 mi
National Average	\$3.54	\$2.30	\$2.02	8%	-3%	1%	-10%	-24%	-12%
North Central	\$3.66	\$2.29	\$1.98	-6%	-24%	-27%	-22%	-37%	-35%
Rocky Mountain	\$3.04	\$2.59	\$1.96	-33%	-21%	-30%	-39%	-35%	-42%
South Central	\$2.74	\$2.56	\$2.52	-30%	-15%	-6%	-44%	-31%	-17%
West	\$3.88	\$2.76	\$2.64	-7%	-20%	-4%	-20%	-33%	-17%

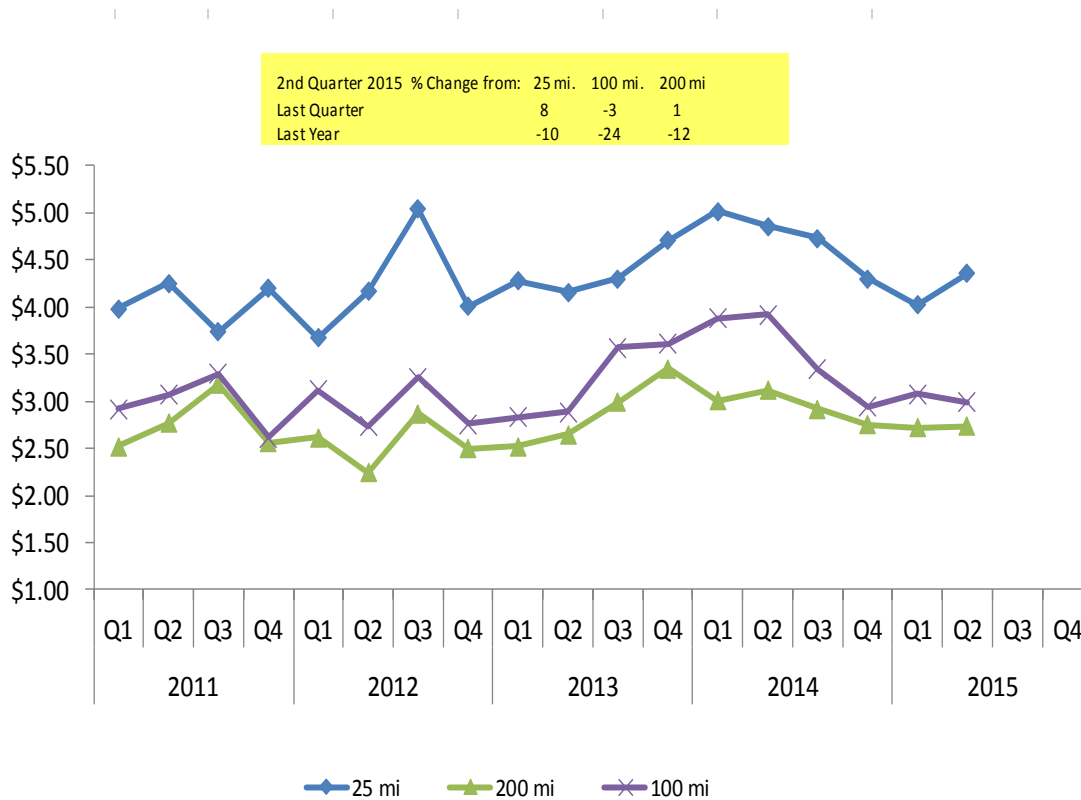
n/a: data not available

Rates are based on trucks with 80,000 lbs gross vehicle weight limit

**Source: Transportation and Marketing Programs/AMS/USDA**

A truck is assumed to carry 55,000 lbs or 25 metric tons of grain. Rates per metric ton per mile can be calculated from rates per truckload.

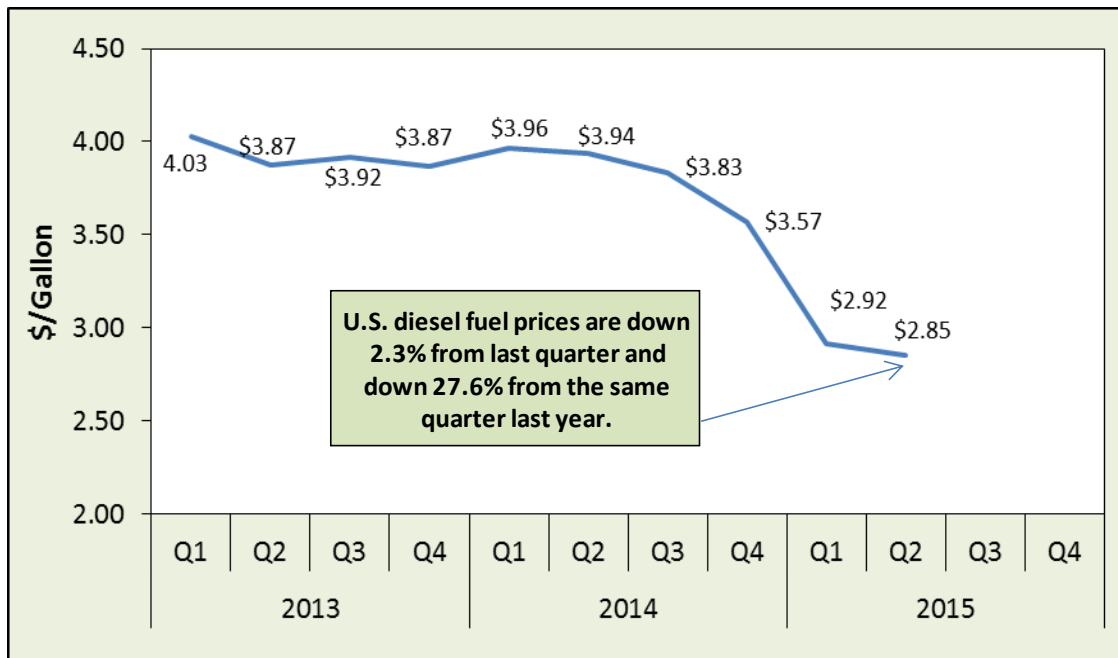
**Figure 4: National Average Truck Rates by Trip Distance**



## U.S. Diesel Fuel Prices

The **diesel fuel price** provides a proxy for trends in U.S. truck rates. Diesel fuel is a significant expense for grain movements.

**Figure 5: U.S. Average On-Highway Diesel Fuel Prices**



Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy

**Table 5: 1st Quarter 2015 Average Diesel Fuel Prices (All Types - \$/Gallon)**

Location	Price	Change From	
		Last Quarter	Same Qtr Last Year
East Coast	2.97	-0.06	-1.06
New England	3.08	-0.09	-1.07
Central Atlantic	3.12	-0.07	-1.01
Lower Atlantic	2.83	-0.06	-1.09
Midwest	2.73	-0.11	-1.06
Gulf Coast	2.74	-0.07	-1.06
Rocky Mountain	2.78	-0.06	-1.17
West Coast	3.07	0.05	-0.95
West Coast Less Calif	2.94	0.08	-0.99
California	3.18	0.01	-0.92
U.S.	2.85	-0.07	-1.09

Source: Energy Information Administration/U.S. Department of Energy

## Ocean Rates

Table 6: Ocean Shipping Rates for Bulk Grain (\$/metric ton)

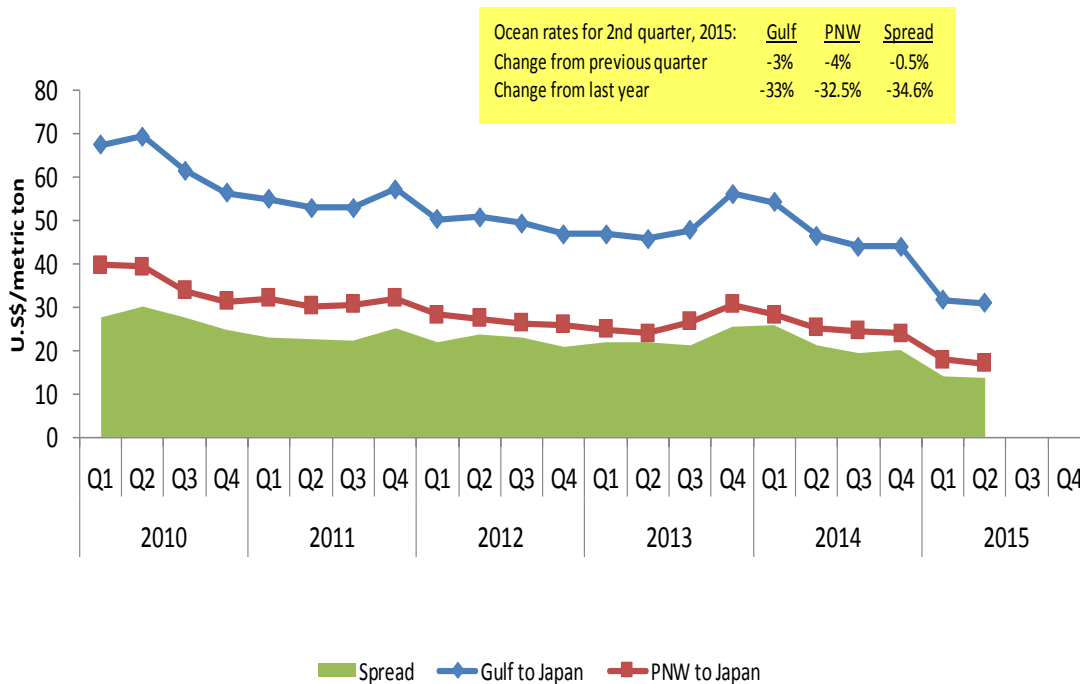
Gulf to										
Country	1st Qtr 2014	2nd Qtr 2014	3rd Qtr 2014	4th Qtr 2014	Average	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2015	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2015	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2015	Average
Japan	54.22	46.39	43.98	44.01	47.15	31.71	30.86			31.28
Rotterdam	23.4	19.4	19.32	18.83	20.24	14.03	13.95			13.99
China	52.39	44.9	42.93	42.64	45.72	30.41	29.54			29.98
Mexico	17.53	15.48	13.56	13.96	15.13	11.63	11.89			11.76
Colombia: Atlantic Port (East)	24.83	21.51	20.05	19.38	21.44	14.71	13.10			13.91
Colombia: Pacific Ports (West)	34.06	28.13	27.94	28.16	29.57	22.83	20.63			21.73

PNW to										
Country	1st Qtr 2014	2nd Qtr 2014	3rd Qtr 2014	4th Qtr 2014	Average	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr 2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr 2015	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr 2015	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr 2015	Average
Japan	28.3	25.25	24.45	23.88	25.47	17.83	17.04			17.44
China	26.38	24.08	23.48	22.91	24.21	16.70	16.17			16.44

Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

Figure 6: Grain Vessel Rates and Spread, U.S. to Japan



Source: O'Neil Commodity Consulting

# Contacts and Links

Surajudeen Olowolayemo  
(Economist)

[Surajudeen.Olowolayemo@ams.usda](mailto:Surajudeen.Olowolayemo@ams.usda) (202) 720-0119

April Taylor  
(Economist)

[April.Taylor@ams.usda.gov](mailto:April.Taylor@ams.usda.gov) (202) 295-7374

Brian McGregor  
(Supervisory Agricultural  
Marketing Specialist)

[Brian.McGregor@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Brian.McGregor@ams.usda.gov) (202) 720-0035

Pierre Bahizi  
(Economist)

[Pierre.Bahizi@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Pierre.Bahizi@ams.usda.gov) (202) 690-0992

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